THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The Government has not yet decided to constitute a regulatory Commission for coal on the lines of the similar commission constituted for Power and Telecommunication.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer given in part (a) of the question.

Setting up of Kiosks under Saksham Project

2727. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Microsoft Corporation has announced their rural initiative "Saksham" under which the company would partner with NGOs to roll out 50,000 kiosks over the next three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such kiosks which are proposed to be set up in Orissa with the Central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) there are media reports about "Saksham" initiative of Microsoft. This initiative is entirely of the company without the Government's involvement.

Disbursal of USO fund for rural telephony

2728. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have expressed dissatisfaction at slow progress of the disbursal of Universal Service Obligation Fund for rural telephony;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheme is taking too long to reach the take off stage and the slow progress of disbursal is harming Government's plan to ensure 200 million mobile subscribers by the year 2007; and

(c) if so, the efforts Government propose to make to ensure the scheme is implemented expeditiously?